

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 /022 R

DRAFTED BY PM/SAS: ASKOCHANNEK/LD

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L/T - MR. BOYD (SUB)

EA/K - MR. MAYHEW (SUB)

DOD/DSAA - MR. NELSON (SUB)

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R 111854Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 189519

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KS

SUBJECT: DECLASSIFICATION OF MOU ON RADIO COPRODUCTION

1. DEPT HAS RECEIVED REQUEST UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) FROM CONGRESSMAN LES ASPIN FOR 29 BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS. ALL OF THESE AGREEMENTS ARE CLASSIFIED AND TEXTS WERE PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED TO THE CONGRESS AS REQUIRED BY LAW. ASPIN IN EFFECT IS ASKING FOR THEIR DECLASSIFICATION. AMONG AGREEMENTS REQUESTED IS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN ROK AND USG RELATING TO COPRODUCTION OF AN/PRC-77 FAMILY OF TACTICAL RADIOS WHICH IS CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL. MOU WAS SIGNED AUGUST 14, 1973.

2. UNDER FOIA, WE ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE RECORDS REQUESTED UNLESS THEY FALL INTO ONE OF THE NINE CATEGORIES SPECIFICALLY EXEMPT. ONLY CATEGORY THAT MIGHT BE APPLICABLE IN THIS CASE IS CATEGORY 1, I.E. "RECORDS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED UNDER CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY AN EXECUTIVE ORDER
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TO BE KEPT SECRET IN THE INTEREST OF NATIONAL DEFENSE OR

FOREIGN POLICY AND IN FACT PROPERLY CLASSIFIED PURSUANT TO SUCH EXECUTIVE ORDER."

3. FROM STANDPOINT OF US NATIONAL DEFENSE, THERE IS NOTHING IN MOU OR ANNEXES THAT WARRANTS CONTINUED CLASSIFICATION. BEFORE DECIDING ON RELEASE OF THE DOCUMENT IN UNCLASSIFIED FORM, HOWEVER, WE WISH TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE ARE ANY STRONG FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS.

4. USG-ROKG COPRODUCTION AGREEMENT DIFFERS FROM OTHERS REQUESTED IN THAT CONGRESS WAS INFORMED IN 1973 IN AN UNCLASSIFIED LETTER PURSUANT TO SECTION 42 (B) OF THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE RADIO COPRODUCTION AGREEMENT (INCLUDING TOTALS TO BE PRODUCED AND PLANNED FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS) PRIOR TO SIGNATURE OF THE MOU. COPIES OF UNCLASSIFIED LETTER HAVE BEEN SENT TO ASPIN.

5. EMBASSY IS INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH ROKG AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND EXPLAIN NATURE OF PROBLEM DRAWING ON FOREGOING PARAS AS NECESSARY. YOU SHOULD STATE THAT USG HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION OF THE MOU AND ANNEXES BUT BEFORE DOING SO WISHES TO ASCERTAIN VIEWS OF ROKG SO THAT THEY MAY BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT SUBSTANCE OF AGREEMENT ALREADY IN PUBLIC DOMAIN FOR REASONS EXPLAINED IN PARA 4 ABOVE. (BEGIN FYI. IF ROKG REACTS STRONGLY AGAINST DECLASSIFICATION, EMBASSY SHOULD ASCERTAIN SPECIFIC NATURE OF OBJECTIONS. THIS WILL ENABLE US TO DETERMINE WHAT, IF ANYTHING, MIGHT BE DELETED FROM THE DOCUMENT THAT IS NOT ALREADY IN PUBLIC DOMAIN. END FYI).

6. IN VIEW OF TIGHT DEADLINES IMPOSED BY FOIA, REPLY REQUESTED SOONEST. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, AGREEMENTS, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE189519
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ASKOCHANNEK/LD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750277-0508
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750863/aaaacdtz.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DECLASSIFICATION OF MOU ON RADIO COPRODUCTION
TAGS: MASS, AINF, KS
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006